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PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PRESENTED TO THE

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Honorable H. M. Horner

Honorable J. L. Foster

Honorable F. H. Peacock

Honorable W. O. Backus

Honorable A. E. Hohol

Honorable L. Hyndman

Honorable C. Copithorne

BY

THE VERMILION - VIKING

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

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TO: Honorable Hugh Horner

Under the Agricultural Development Corporation would you consider the following proposal: Rather than direct grants of interest, would you consider an escalating interest rate starting at 2% and increasing by 1% per year over the life of the loan. Example, after 10 years the rate would be 11%. This would encourage the borrower to seek funds elsewhere sooner. A long term loan may increase by ½% per year, whereas, a short term loan may increase by 2% per year. We would like to suggest that this plan could also be used under the Alberta Opportunity Corporation.

In checking with local banks we found the chartered banks have eight Native Range Programs pending and no future farmers. The Treasury Branch has nine future farmers and no Native Range Assistance Program.

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICES

We would like to be assured that the offices of the Regional Agriculturalist that are presently in Vermilion will remain in Vermilion.

COMMUNITY PASTURES

We believe that the Provincial Government in conjunction with the Federal Government wherever possible should strive to increase community pastures or increase the productivity of the pastures in existence. This could be done by way of the governments involved actually owning the pastures or it could be done on a co-operative basis whereby the government could provide subsidized interest loans on an escalating basis, as more fully explained in another section of this brief. Many farmers owing less than one section of land in this area cannot adequately raise enough pasture and feed to make an economical unit. We would like to impress upon you at this time that it would be more valuable to the government and to the communities involved if we had more farmers living closer together than it is for fewer farmers farming more land and living at long distances. One sure way of increasing the viability and the life of our smaller rural centers would be to get more farmers on the land.

TO: Honorable J. L. Foster

VERMILION COLLEGE

We know that the role of the Vermilion College must change from time to time. It is our desire that the Vermilion College become an accredited college where some first and second-year university can be taught. We would also like the government to increase the number of specialized training courses for local people within the adult education context, even though these courses may be for short periods of time, and your instructional staff would have to be transferred from point to point. We are speaking in terms of courses such as municipal technicians, municipal streets and roads, insurance agents, adjustors and related services.

We would like to suggest that a three-way connection should be further developed between the College and some of the high school programs, rather than having many of these programs duplicated. We would like to commend you on the Heavy Equipment Operators Course being held in Vermilion, as it is being accepted favourably within the construction industry. This type of on-the-job training is extremely valuable and it protects the future employer from having someone who is inexperienced damage heavy equipment.

We believe the College Farm should be transferred back to the Department of Agriculture for an experimental farm.

ALBERTA OPPORTUNITY COMPANY & AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SPEED & EFFICIENCY

As much as we agree with general policies that the Provincial Government has come up with, the results are sometimes very slow and frustrating. Would it be possible, for the sake of a better example, under the A.D.C., to have twenty-five men move into an area, live in one town for one month and visit every farmer, get all the problems and needs, and have them evaluated and approved or rejected at the one time. It would allow precendences to be made, experiences discussed, and the entire group would be familiar with one another as well as to acquaint themselves much more to the problem.

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TO: Honorable Lou Hyndman

RE: VERMILION SCHOOL FOR THE RETARDED

We would like your opinion on the future of the Retarded School in Vermilion. Will there be grants available to build a dormitory to house these students; room for a workshop similar to the Sheltered Work Shop in Lloydminster, and qualified teachers? The school in Vermilion is not being used to its fullest potential at present.

TO: Honorable A. E. Hohol

RE: On-the-Job Training Program

Many students find that after leaving school they need some form of experience. Many prospective employers are reluctant to hire them. We would therefore like you to study the On-The-Job Training Program enclosed.

TO: Honorable W. O. Backus

RE: Special funding for major Municipal Works.

Towns and Villages are at times hard-pressed for capital funds in the event that an industry wants to come to their area.

Is there one general policy to cover a municipality in the event that they may need water, streets, roads, drainage, sewage disposal, etc., over and above the normal Municipal financing?

TO: Honorable Clarence Copithorne

ROADS

We have been grateful for the tremendous progress in road construction over the last few years. However, in our area the common road surface - gravel - is getting very scarce. In order to conserve gravel, an oiling program must be started immediately. So far, no provincial assistance has been forthcoming. We must look to the Senior Government for assistance here.

Highways 41 and 36 seem to be a constant thorn in the areas where they are not completed. We feel these north - south arteries are very essential to the North East portion of Alberta.

We would like the government to allow towns by-passed by main highways develop highway travelling services. Example: Vermilion desires a development on its' south flank and we would so encourage. The Town of Vermilion feels very neglected over the issue. We would strongly urge that you reassess the proposed interchanges of highway #41 and #16 and with a view to build a full clover leaf at the intersection of these highways and forget about an interchange east of Vermilion.

HEALTH

In our area the Vermilion Hospital Board has been instrumental in forming a joint planning region. Combination of all health facilities in the Vermilion Town as to administration etc. This seems a very good idea and we feel it should be followed up. The Civil Service was enthusiastic over this plan a few years ago. We were and still are. We wonder if there has been a change in government thinking.

ALBERTA POWER

It has come to the attention of the constituency that farmers applying for power from Alberta Power are told that it will take up to several months to get power into their farm. One case in particular, the farmer has waited sometime and the Power Company rebuilt a line within one mile of the farm on the same R.E.A., and would not run in the extra poles to service this farm. He has no guarantee as to when he will get it or indeed if he will before freeze-up. The young farmer involved has a small child, and is desiring to put a new home on the property, but cannot until he gets power. Is there anything that can be done to speed up the installation of power service?

PARKS

Provincial Parks prohibit such popular recreation activities as ski-doos, saddle horses and even holding ecumenical church services. Many of the tourists who stay at Provincial Parks would probably appreciate seeing saddle horses. (Eg. Many people acquaint Alberta with livestock, horses, oil, etc.). We feel that a park is for people recreation.